GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4625
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
LEELA SETH COMMISSION REPORT
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Leela Seth Commission has already submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The requisite details are given in the attached statement.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4625 T ANSWERED ON 22ND AUGUST, 2000.

Justice Leila Seth Commission of Inquiry which was constituted for examining various aspects of the death of Rajan Pillai in Central Jail Tihar in July, 1995 submitted its report on 25.2.97 and made a number of recommendations.

The main recommendation of the Justice Leila Seth Commission of Inquiry and action taken thereupon are as under:-

RECOMMENDATIONS ACTION TAKEN

A. It should be ensured that all the dak received from the Court is properly entered in the Receipt Register and sent to the addressee. A special care is needed in respect of confidential communication from Courts. It should be opened by the addressee only.

B. Proper arrangement should be made for the management/upkeep of ambulances and their equipment.

C. Sufficient number of benches should be provided in the dispensaries/ Central Jail Hospital for seating of sick prisoners awaiting treatment.

D. A room should be earmarked in Deodhi of all the jails for conducting mulahiza of newly admitted prisoners. The room should be adequately furnished with all reasonable facilities to make the ill patients comfortable and facilitate their proper medical examination.

E. In all situations the medical care to the sick prisoners should take precedence over interview or any other work.

F. The observations of the Courts about the health of a prisoner as recorded in the production warrant must be communicated to the R.M.O./S.M.O. concerned verbatim for necessary action.

G. It is the statutory duty of the S.M.O. to take round of the jail premises alongwith the Jail Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and conduct the inspection of living barracks, kitchen, water facility, etc. so that health care is ensured.

H. The de-addiction Centre needs to be strengthened and more centres set up. After the patients have been treated, they need to be rehabilitated in order to ensure that they do not once again become drug addicts. For this purpose, the services of clinical psychiatrist, medico-social workers, counsellors, occupational therapists and yoga teachers should be enlisted.

I. A well equipped laboratory for conducting various tests of prisoner-patients should be provided separately in each jail and Central Jail Hospital.

J. There is no Medical officer residing in Central Jail, Tihar. This could be rectified.

K. A proper inter-communication system should be provided in the prison.

L. The keys of the Wards during the lunch time in the Central Jail Hospital and the Dispensaries should be available with the doctor on duty and should not be diposited in Deodi.

M. Computerisation in the prisons should be suitably strengthened so that the medical data could also be handled by the computers.

N. In addition to Register No.1 which contains the details of newly admitted prisoners and those to be released, Register No.1 (a) should be started which should be primarily used by the doctor on duty for mulahiza of the newly admitted prisoners. This Register should also be consulted for history of any illness of the prisoner concerned even in future.

O. The observation ward must be properly equipped with necessary life saving equipments. The names of persons responsible for looking after the equipments, the ambulance and the stretcher etc. should be put up on the notice board of the Deodi.

P. All the doctors should be sensitised for making proper and systematic summary of the diagnosis of cases examined by them.

A. The system is already in vogue. However, in the instant case the Assistant Supdt., Jail violated the system; for his negligence he has been proceeded against.

B. One ambulance has been provided to each jail for shifting serious patients to the outside hospitals and two ambulances are kept ready exclusively to attend to any medical contingency at the Jail Hospital.

C&D. After rationalization of mulahiza/ new admission system, a room has been earmarked at Deodi where mulahiza is carried out. Steps have been taken for furnishing this room with reasonable facilities to make prisoner-patients comfortable.

E. The system has been reviewed and further streamlined. Now, a prisoner admitted in the Central Jail Hospital or M.I. Room or a dispensary, is permitted to go out to attend the Court or legal interview or even interview with relations and friends only after the Doctor concerned grants the permission keeping in view the health of the prisoner. Further, the Duty Officers have also been sensitised that in case a prisoner is suddenly taken ill, while being out for legal interview or interview with friends etc., his medical care should take precedence over any other work.

F. The Jail Authorities have since issued instructions that any directions of the Court on the detention/production warrant should be communicated to the doctor or the official concerned by means of the photocopy of the same.

G. This recommendation is being followed in the Jail premises.

H. The de-addiction Centre at Jail No.4 which was hitherto being run by an NGO has been taken over by the Government. In addition a new de-addiction centre in Jail No.5 has been made operational. However, the work to operationalise a de-addiction Centre in Jail No.3 is in progress. Some NGOs have also extended help to the Jail administration in taking steps like vocationalisation, counselling, meditation, education, theatre, etc. for the benefit of the prisoners.

I. The hospital functioning in the Central Jail has been provided with facilities for indoor patients, casuality, X-Ray and routine laboratory tests. Specialists from other Govt. Hospitals also regularly visit the jail hospital. In addition, one well equipped dispensary manned round the clock by doctors and para-medical is functioning in each jail.

J. At present, a number of Medical Officers reside in the Jail prisoners. This includes one CMO and their Medical Officers.

K. An intercom network has been provided in all the jails for improving the communication system. Telephones have been provided in each ward of the jail having a link with the Duty officer, the Deputy Superintendent and the Superintendent jail so as to minimise loss of time in communications of any important happening inside the ward to the supervisory staff on duty.

L. This recommendation has been implemented.

M. A computer system has already been installed in jail hospital for computerisation of work.

N. The system has been streamlined to ensure that no new prisoner is admitted into the jail unless he has been medically examined.

O. This recommendation has been implemented.

P. This procedure is being followed by the Jail Administration.